(c) if not whether any effort is being made between the two Governments on this agenda; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) A bilateral institutional frame work exists between India and Nepal for cooperation in the area of border management. The Fourth Meeting of the India-Nepal Joint Working Group on Border Management was held in New Delhi on 28 and 29 June, 2001.

During the meeting, both sides reiterated their determination not to allow their respective territories for activities directed against each other. They also had a useful exchange of views on various aspects of effective management of the India-Nepal border. They agreed to strengthen cooperation to control activities of terrorists/criminals and other undesirable elements across the border.

It was also agreed to hold regular meetings of the Interpol units of India and Nepal to expedite disposal of pending cases on both sides. Both sides also agreed to commence expert level discussions on a legal framework for cooperation in criminal and civil matters and to review extradition arrangements.

The two sides further agreed to expedite procedural aspects of improving infrastructural facilities at the border check-posts. While appreciating the arrangements at the Tribhuvan International Airport, Kathmandu, the meeting emphasised the need for early computerisation of immigration facilities.

It was also agreed to schedule talks between the Home Secretaries of the two countries at the earliest.

World Conference against Racism

†543. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have declined to include the caste-based discrimination in the UN Conference against Racial Discrimination to be held in Durban;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether Government propose to review its decision in view of demands made by various downtrodden organizations in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) The World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance is being convened in Durban, South Africa from 30 August—7 September 2001 in the framework of UN General Assembly resolutions 52/111 dated 12 December 1997, 53/132 dated 9 December 1998, 54/154 dated 17 December 1999 and 55/84 dated 4 December 2000. The UNGA has decided that the World Conference should be action oriented and adopt a declaration and programme of action containing concrete and practical recommendations to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance. These UN resolutions do not refer to discrimination on grounds not related to racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.

(b) The theme of the World Conference in Durban is "Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance". Government's view is that the focus of the Conference must remain on global action against racism and racial discrimination. Inclusion of issues unrelated to racism would detract from and dilute the focus on racism and racial discrimination.

(c) A National Committee has been set up by the Prime Minister under the Chairmanship of the Minister of External Affairs for the purpose of providing and coordinating inputs for India's participation at the World Conference. It has held two sessions in February and in June, 2001 respectively. The Committee has deliberated on the issues involved. It considered presentations made by NGOs at its session held in Hyderabad on 4 June, 2001. It concluded that it would not be appropriate for caste-based discrimination to be included in the purview of the World Conference. The Government proposes to act accordingly.

Extradition Treaty between India and Malaysia

544. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the extradition treaty between India and Malaysia, which would have facilitated getting the Italian Business representative Ottavio Quattrochi back to India to face trial in the Bofors pay-off case, could not be signed during the recent visit of the Prime Minister to Malaysia; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?